

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAR ES 01795 291744Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01

/068 W

----- 109620

O P 291620Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8407

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1795

KINSHASA PASS BUKAVU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS

REF: A) STATE 124484; B) KINSHASA 4413; C) KINSHASA 4438;

D) BUJUMBURA 345; E) DAR ES SALAAM 1748; AND

F) DAR ES SALAAM 1769

1. APPROACH TO KIDNAPPERS THROUGH BISHOP CATARZI AND NSENGIYUMVA (REFS A, B AND C) SEEMS GOOD ONE, AND WE WILL BE INTERESTED RESULTS OF AMCONSUL BUKAVU'S DEMARCHE PER PARA ONE, REF C. AS INDICATED REF F, OUR ADVANCE OFFICE AT KIGOMA ALSO RECOMMENDS CONTACT WITH UVIRA BISHOPRIC, NAMING IN PARTICULAR FATHER ALDO VAGNI, ECONOMAT GENERAL. LOVING OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE MAY WISH INCLUDE VAGNI IN HIS CONTACTS AT UVIRA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAR ES 01795 291744Z

2. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE DEVELOP POSSIBILITY OF

STEINER MISSION, HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT MAY STILL BE NEEDED. APPROACH THROUGH UVIRA MAY NOT WORK AND, IF SO, WE WILL NEED ALTERNATES. IN ADDITION, AS OUTLINED FURTHER ON, WE BELIEVE STEINER CAN PLAY USEFUL ROLE EVEN IF EFFECTIVE CONTACT IS MADE THROUGH BISHOP CATARZI OR OTHERS AT UVIRA OR THROUGH NSENGIYUMVA.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES CONTAINED PARA THREE, REF A, OUR SCENARIO FOR STEINER MISSION WOULD BE (SUBJECT TO FURTHER REFINEMENT) AS FOLLOWS. STEINER WOULD PROCEED TO NYANZA LAC ON SHORE OF LAKE TANGANYIKA IN BURUNDI, EITHER VIA BUJUMBURA OR DIRECTLY FROM KIGOMA. (OUR MAPS INDICATE THERE IS AIRSTRIP AT NYANZA LAC -- CAN BUJUMBURA CONFIRM?). AS HE WILL NEED INTERPRETER, WE WOULD HOPE THAT SUITABLE ONE COULD BE PROVIDED, FLUENT IN FRENCH AND SWAHILI, FROM LOCAL EMPLOYEE OF EITHER AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA (PREFERABLY) OR AMCONSUL BUKAVU (ALTHOUGH STEINER HAS SOME FRENCH, IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES). WE GATHER FROM REF D, THAT THIS WOULD POSE NO PROBLEMS FROM POINT OF VIEW OF GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI. (INTER ALIA, BURUNDI FIRST SECRETARY HERE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TODAY TO ASSURE EMBASSY OF GOB'S DEEP CONCERN FOR KIDNAPPED STUDENTS, AND SAID HE IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH BUJUMBURA ON SUBJECT.) WE WOULD SEEK TO ARRANGE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN STEINER AND OUR NEARBY POSTS (BUJUMBURA, BUKAVU, KIGOMA, ETC.).

4. ONCE ON SITE, NEXT STEP WOULD BE ATTRACTING PRP. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS BE ATTEMPTED BY RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT, AND OTHER PUBLICITY, THAT STEINER AT NYANZA LAC PREPARED TO TALK AND AWAITING EMISSARY FROM PRP, WITH WHATEVER ASSURANCES OF SAFE CONDUCT FOR PRP REPRESENTATIVE WE CAN GIVE. ON THIS POINT THERE SEEMS TO BE NO PROBLEM WITH BURUNDI (REF D), AND THERE SEEMS REASON TO BELIEVE (REF C) THAT ASSURANCES FROM ZAIRE MAY BE FORTHCOMING IF NEEDED. RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT COULD BE MADE, IN FOLLOWING ORDER OF PRIORITY OVER (1) SWAHILI-LANGUAGE SERVICES OF RADIO TANZANIA, RADIO BURUNDI, AND (WE CAN AT LEAST HOPE) RADIO ZAIRE; (2) INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN SERVICES OF VOA, BBC, RADIO NETHERLANDS, ETC. PRESS, FOR WHAT IS WORTH, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAR ES 01795 291744Z

WOULD ALSO BE USED. WORD WOULD ALSO BE SPREAD THROUGH MISSIONARY CIRCLES AND ANY OTHER LINES THAT CAN BE FOUND (E.G. WE SUSPECT ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA COULD LAUNCH STORY THROUGH HIS CONTACTS IN KIGOMA, WHICH APPEARS TO SERVE AS PRP COMMISSARY). THEN STEINER WOULD SETTLE DOWN TO WAIT FOR A RESPONSE.

5. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, EVEN IF STEINER IS NOT NEEDED AS

PRIMARY CONTACT WITH KIDNAPPERS, WE BELIEVE HE MAY PROVE TO HAVE USEFUL ROLE AS US REPRESENTATIVE IN NEGOTIATIONS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH BISHOP CATARZI OR WHOEVER SUCCEEDS IN BECOMING INTERMEDIARY WITH PRP. STEINER HAS ADVANTAGE OF BEING UN-CONNECTED WITH USG, AND OF HAVING FULL TRUST OF KIDNAPPED STUDENTS' FAMILIES. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, HE IS IN OUR JUDGMENT SOUND AND LEVEL-HEADED AND COULD EXERCISE SOME CONTROL OVER INTERMEDIARIES' ACTIVITIES IN TERMS OF BOTH USG GUIDELINES ON WHAT WE CAN AND CANNOT DO, AND INTERESTS OF PARENTS AND KIDNAP VICTIMS THEMSELVES. FOR HIM TO PLAY EVEN THIS ROLE, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS TO US THAT IT WOULD BE WELL AT LEAST TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR HIS TRAVEL TO THE AREA OF POTENTIAL NEGOTIATIONS.

6. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE REQUEST DEPT AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE PREPARATIONS, IN COLLABORATION OTHER POSTS INVOLVED, FOR SENDING STEINER TO NYANZA LAC OR OTHER POTENTIAL NEGOTIATING SITE. FINAL DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO SEND HIM OR NOT, AS WELL AS APPROACHES TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS FOR RADIO OR OTHER PUBLICITY, SAFE CONDUCTS, ETC., WOULD BE KEPT IN ABEYANCE UNTIL WE KNOW MORE OF PROSPECTS FOR APPROACH NOW BEING INITIATED BY AMEMBASSY KINSHASA (REF C). BUT INFORMATION ON NYANZA LAC FACILITIES, POSSIBILITIES OBTAINING NEEDED RADIO EQUIPMENT, ETC., COULD BE INITIATED NOW. PLEASE ADVISE.
CARTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, CITIZEN PROTECTION, TERRORISTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DARES01795
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750188-0395
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975056/aaaaafho.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 124484, 75 KINSHASA 4413, 75 KINSHASA 4438
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS
TAGS: CASC, PINS, US, TZ, NL, CG, (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEVE), (HUNTER, CARRIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006